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ORIGIN SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05 DHA-02

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DRAFTED BY S/CCT: EWSCHAEFER:JBROWNE APPROVED BY S/CCT: EWSCHAEFER AF/E:WCOOTE (DRAFT)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
USCINCEUR PRIORITY
CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 166857

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: ABDUCTION OF CISCO EMPLOYEES

REF: ADDIS ABABA 8401

1. WE WISH TO BE SURE THAT ADDRESSEE POSTS AND EPMG UNDER-STAND THAT USG WILL MAKE NO PUBLIC REITERATION OF NO RANSOM POLICY SO LONG AS INCIDENT LASTS. IF ASKED BY MEDIA WHAT OUR POLICY IS WITH REGARD TO RANSOM DEPARTMENT WILL RESPOND THAT "OUR POLICY IS WELL KNOWN" AND WILL NOT ELABORATE. THIS POSITION WAS INCLUDED IN PRESS GUIDANCE (LAST Q AND A) FURNISHED TO DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN MONDAY JULY 15 AND RECONFIDENTIAL

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PEATED TO POSTS BY SEPTEL.

- 2. IN GENERAL, AS REGARDS HANDLING OF PRESS, WE WISH RE-ITERATE NEED FOR CLOSE COORDINATION BETWEEN DEPARTMENT AND ADDIS AND ASMARA. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE DEPARTMENT IS IN TOUCH WITH CISCO HEADQUARTERS IN U.S. AND THAT CISCO OFFICIALS HAVE AGREED TO COORDINATE ANY PRESS STATEMENTS WITH STATE. DEPARTMENT HAS UNDERTAKEN TO KEEP CISCO INFORMED AS TO LINE WE ARE TAKING WITH THE PRESS. WE HAVE EMPHASIZED TO CISCO THAT A PRIMARY CONCERN IN OUR RELATION WITH PRESS IS TO AVOID ANY STATEMENT WHICH MIGHT INCREASE THE DANGER TO WHICH HOSTAGES ARE ALREADY EXPOSED.
- 3. DEPARTMENT IS NOW IN TOUCH WITH PARENTS OF HARREL AND CAMPBELL.
- 4. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS THAT IN ADDITION TO COORDINATION ON PRESS MATTERS, THAT PROPOSED DEMARCHES TO FOREIGN OFFICE OR TO AUTHORITIES IN ASMARA BY ACTION ADDRESSEES IN CONNECTION WITH CASE WILL, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, BE CABLED TO DEPARTMENT IN TIME FOR COMMENT. INGERSOLL

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: EWSCHAEFER: JBROWNE

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Review Markings:

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To: ADDIS ABABA ASMARA

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006